

FIG. 2 shows a corn grit 42 as it is obtained when the cooking process is conducted for an excessively long time and with insufficient heat exchange.

The resulting grit exhibits outer areas 46, where the starch has already gelatinized due to the long treating time, i.e. where a sticky outer layer has been produced. 5

The inner core has not yet been cooked at all, i.e. there still exists the so-called white spot 44.

If such a grit 42 is then subjected to further treatment, i.e. pressed between rollers, the flake 48 obtained, as illustrated in FIG. 3, contains areas 50 that are still uncooked. When such a flake is then roasted to obtain the desired cornflake, one obtains the cornflake 56 as illustrated in FIG. 5, which exhibits in the incompletely cooked areas a surface 55 with a baked structure similar to puff pastry. The cornflake 56 shows an undesirable pale discoloring in these areas. 10 15

The desired blisters 58 are produced in small numbers only.

With the aid of the drum cooker 10 equipped according to the invention, it is now possible to produce a corn grit that is cooked thoroughly, much more uniformly and more quickly so that it exhibits neither any sticky outer areas 46, nor a white spot 44 in its inner core. Such a uniformly treated corn grit is then further proceed, a cornflake 52, as illustrated in FIG. 4, is obtained after the roasting process which exhibits fine, small blisters 54 uniformly distribution over its surface. 20

For the sake of clarity, the lid and also the additional supply lines, for example for introducing syrup or cleaning water or the like, have been omitted in FIG. 1; these lines can be suitably guided along the outside of the vessel.

What we claim is:

1. A drum cooker for cooking granular products, comprising: 30 35

a vessel mounted to rotate about an axis;

at least two nozzle groups opening into said vessel; each of said nozzle groups being connected to supply lines;

a gaseous heat-carrying medium is feedable via said supply lines and said nozzle group into said vessel; said at least two nozzle groups are arranged circumferentially distributed one to another, in a manner that a first nozzle group opens into a first area of said vessel covered by said granular product contained in said vessel,

while a second nozzle group opens into a second area of said vessel not covered by said granular product contained in said vessel, wherein

a control means is provided for supplying said gaseous heat-carrying medium at any time to that nozzle group only that opens into said first area covered by the product.

2. The drum cooker of claim 1, wherein said control means is designed in that said vessel can be vented via said second nozzle group opening into said second area not covered by said product.

3. The drum cooker of claim 1, wherein said at least two nozzle groups are arranged diametrically opposite one to another.

4. The drum cooker of claim 1, wherein each nozzle group has a plurality of nozzles arranged along a direction of said axis of rotation of said vessel.

5. The drum cooker of claim 1, wherein said control means comprises a multiple line distribution through which media can be separately guided into and out of said vessel.

6. The drum cooker of claim 1, wherein said granular product are corn grits for the production of cornflakes.

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